Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07324 251408Z ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-04 EPG-02 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 FRB-03 OMB-01 FEA-01 INT-05 NEA-10 /059 W ------251927Z 038729 /46

R 251225Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7852 INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEWT, ENRG, FR, UR

SUBJECT: FRENCH TRADE WITH USSR IN 1977

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 2023, (B) PARIS 2073

- 1. AS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, FRENCH TRADE WITH THE USSR IS FLOURISHING IN 1977, MUCH IN CONTRAST TO THE REPORTS WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING FROM OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE FRG.
- 2. FRENCH EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED US WITH STATISTICS COVERING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1977 WHICH BEAR THIS OUT. FRENCH EXPORTS ROSE 44 PERCENT FROM 1,169.5 MILLION FRANCS IN 1976 TO 1,688.2 MILLION IN 1977. SOVIET EXPORTS DECLINED SLIGHTLY (3.8 PERCENT) FROM 1,080.2 MILLION FRANCS TO 1,041.4 MILLION IN 1977. THE POSITIVE FRENCH BALANCE OF 646.8 MILLION FRANCS THIS YEAR COMPARES TO ONLY 89.3 MILLION FOR THE COMPARABLE PERIOD OF 1976
- 3. FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR LABADIE HAS ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE RASH OF AGREEMENTS SIGNED LATE IN 1976 AND VOLUNTEERED THE COMMENT THAT THINGS ARE TOO GOOD TO KEEP GOING AT THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 07324 251408Z

RATE. FRENCH TEXTILE SALES TO THE USSR HAVE BEEN DOWN AND THAT SUBJECT WILL BE RAISED WITH SOVIETS. SALES OF LARGE DIAMETER PIPE ARE ALSO DOWN.

LABADIE HAS TOLD US, HOWEVER,
THE FRENCH EXPECT CONTRACTS VALUED AT 6.8 BILLION FRANCS TO BE SIGNED THIS YEAR.

- 4. CONCERNING HIS OWN PET INTEREST IN PUSHING FRENCH PURCHASE OF SOVIET, VICE MIDDLE EASTERN OIL, LABADIE REPORTS THAT HIS "PREACHING" HAS MET STRONG DOMESTIC OPPOSITION, INCLUDING BP FRANCE. BP HAS PURCHASED A SMALL AMOUNT OF SOVIET OIL, ACCORDING TO LABADIE, AT SOMETHING LESS THAN THE FULL OPEC PRICE, BUT PRICES MUST BE NEGOTIATED EVERY THREE MONTHS.
- 5. SOVIET DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE KOMAROV IS TO BEGIN THREE-DAY VISIT TO PARIS TODAY TO REVIEW ALL INDUSTRIAL PLANS IN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: EXPORTS, FOREIGN TRADE, CONTRACTS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 25-May-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW07324
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770187-0285 Format: TEL

From: MOSCOW Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770520/aaaaagri.tel

Line Count: 74 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: f966498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ACTION EB

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 MOSCOW 2023, 77 PARIS 2073

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2378326 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: FRENCH TRADE WITH USSR IN 1977

TAGS: EEWT, ENRG, FR, UR

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f966498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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